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The invention relates to agents and processes for detecting bacteria of the genus *Listeria*, in particular *L. monocytogenes*. The agents according to the invention include primers whose sequence is selected from the *iap* gene of *L. monocytogenes*. In addition, the agents according to the invention include peptides whose sequence is selected from the p60 protein and which are suitable for producing specific antibodies for the immunological detection of *L. monocytogenes*.